

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS (OLA)**

PRESS RELEASE

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**Office on Latino Affairs Announces Winners of
Latino Community Education Grant and Latino Community Health Grant**

Washington, DC.– The Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) today named the seventeen Latino Community Education Grantees (LCEG) and the two Latino Community Health Grantees (LCHG) for fiscal year 2006. The education grantees will receive between \$30,000 and \$75,000, and the health grantees will receive between \$155,000 and \$285,000 of support over the next year.

“This new cycle of community grants demonstrates an on-going commitment of my administration to improving the well-being of our Latino residents, who contribute so much to the vitality and development of our great city,” said Mayor Williams.

According to the Director of the OLA, Gustavo Velasquez, “the amount of funds awarded to the nineteen grantees will total nearly \$1.4 million for fiscal year 2006 – a level of funding that speaks volumes about the capacity and quality of the community-based organizations that will receive the awards.”

The aim of the OLA community education grants is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the District’s Latino community, complement the education and training resources available in the city, and provide appropriate and quality training and educational services that increase the work skills of Latinos or lead to decreased school drop out rates of Latino youth. OLA’s Community Health grants seek to increase access to health care, reduce the disparities found between Latinos and other population groups, and improve health outcomes for underserved Spanish-speaking constituents.

The application and grant process was assisted by an independent firm, Health Care Strategies Group, Inc., experienced in developing and managing local and federal government grant competitions. A total of 37 LCEG and 7 LCHG applications were received and considered for funding. Forty-three independent grant reviewers were recruited and nineteen were selected. Reviewer selection criteria included, but was not limited to, experience and/or knowledge of the DC Latino population, business, education/training, nonprofits, public health, program development/administration, and the grant review process. Each application was analyzed and scored by at least three grant reviewers. Finalists for the Community Health applicants were also asked to provide a presentation of their program. Final decisions were made by OLA, based on the reviewers’ recommendations and the organizations’ prior performance (when applicable).

Grant recipients for 2006 include:

Latino Community Education Grant

Barbara Chambers Children’s Center
Carlos Rosario International School
Catholic Charities Downtown Family Center
Central American Resource Center
CentroNía
GALA Hispanic Center
Language ETC
Latino Economic Development Corporation

Latino Student Fund
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care
Multi-Cultural Career Intern Program
Spanish Catholic Center
Spanish Education Development Center
The Family Place, Inc.
Work Achievement Values Education, Inc
Young Playwrights' Theater

Latino Community Health Grant

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care
La Clínica del Pueblo

OLA's grants are performance-based. Grantees provide quarterly reports that demonstrate their progress towards meeting program outputs and outcomes.

About the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA)

Since 1976, the Office on Latino Affairs, which is part of the Executive Office of the Mayor, has served the Latino community of the District of Columbia. Working with the Mayor, the City Council, local governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and the private sector, OLA serves as a liaison between the DC government and the Latino community, by providing information on the different services available in the areas of health, education, employment, housing, social services, and economic development.

OLA's mission is to improve the quality of life of the District's Latino population by furnishing community-based grants, advocacy, community relations, and outreach services. OLA also collaborates with a wide range of DC governmental agencies to ensure the adequate implementation of the DC Language Access Act, which seeks to provide access and participation in public services, programs, and activities for residents of the District with limited or no-English proficiency.

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